

1 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
2 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO**

3 **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,**

4 **Plaintiff,**

5 **v.**

CASE NO. 12-2039 (GAG)

6 **COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO,**
7 **et al.,**

8 **Defendants.**

9 **ORDER REGARDING AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE MARIA**

10 Foremost, the undersigned is extremely sensitive and supportive of the actions taken
11 by Commonwealth and Federal governments following devastation left by the wake of
12 Hurricane Maria. Rebuilding Puerto Rico is certainly one of the greatest challenges any
13 United States jurisdiction has ever faced in the history of our Nation. I have no doubt,
14 however, that the strength and perseverance of our People as one Nation Under God, as well
15 as that of our democratically elected and appointed leaders at every level will enable the
16 promptest and humanly possible restoration of this Caribbean paradise, as well as of our
17 close neighbor the U.S. Virgin Islands, collectively both home to over 3.5 million U.S. citizens.

18 Immediately after the passing of Hurricane Maria, the Technical Compliance Advisor
19 (“TCA”), following the undersigned’s directives, carried out an initial assessment of the
20 perceivable challenges to the Reform process. Subsequently, the TCA contacted the Puerto Rico
21 Police Department (“PRPD”) Superintendent, Michelle Fraley and Reform Office Director,
22 Colonel Clementina Vega, as well as U.S. Department of Justice (“USDOJ”) counsel Luis
23 Saucedo, to discuss the nature of these initial challenges. In light of the obvious extent of the
24 damages sustained to the entire island and its infrastructure, all coincide, as does the undersigned,

Civil No. 12-2039 (GAG)

1 that the ongoing reform process of the PRPD will have to mold itself to prevailing conditions.
2 Thus, the parties, with the assistance of the TCA, and ultimate court approval, must prospectively
3 adopt a new framework that considers the post Maria scenario now part of the equation, and the
4 vastly diminished resources presently available.

5 In order to guarantee the continued success of the PRPD Reform under the present
6 circumstances, the undersigned hereby instructs the parties and TCA to discuss the following
7 matters and inform the Court via joint motion filed on or before October 24, 2017. The parties
8 and TCA, if warranted, may jointly request any reasonable extension of time.

9 1. Paragraph 239, of the Agreement for the Sustainable Reform of the PRPD (Docket
10 60) establishes the process for modifying any of the time frames set forth in the
11 Action Plans. The currently ongoing timeframes were set under a scenario that has
12 now changed. It is thus unrealistic to expect that PRPD achieve and continue its up
13 to date compliance under the present conditions, more so when the Commonwealth
14 and PRPD's personnel resources are principally committed to disaster relief effort
15 and maintaining state of law and order throughout the island. The parties and TCA
16 need to revise existing deadlines and agree to realistic ones. The undersigned
17 advances that it inclined to favor any requests for new deadlines by PRPD, and is
18 confident that USDOJ will join in the same.

19 2. As part of the Reform's training component, the parties and TCA, need to establish
20 a working group to identify all vital areas regarding police training that are affected
21 and/or require immediate attention in the aftermath of Maria. In addition,
22 additional and new trainings on National emergency matters should be discussed.
23 The undersigned strongly urges USDOJ to identify any federal funds or resources,
24 emergency or otherwise, that can benefit PRPD in this area.

